Minister Solberg marks Family Literacy Day

OTTAWA, January 26, 2007 — The Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, issued the following statement to mark Family Literacy Day.

"Tomorrow, Canadians across the country will celebrate Family Literacy Day. Parents and caregivers play a vital role in promoting literacy and instilling the love of reading in children. On Family Literacy Day, it is important to recognize the efforts of the people who do just that.

Canada's New Government is committed to working with groups that help people learn how to read and write. Over the next two years, we will be investing over $80 million towards programs to help adults improve their reading and writing skills.

Literacy gives people the confidence to succeed in life and in the workplace. Through the Workplace Skills Initiative and the Sector Council Program, we are supporting literacy and essential skills in the workplace. Also, through Employment Insurance Part II, our government is investing $2 billion to help Canadians develop the skills and experience they need to succeed. And in Budget 2006, Canada's New Government announced a new investment of $28 million for the Enhanced Language Training Initiative, helping newcomers to Canada acquire the language and literacy skills they need to build a new life in Canada.

Canada's new Government is moving forward with its promises and is getting things done to provide Canadians with literacy programs that deliver results."

For more information about the Workplace Skills Initiative visit
http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/ws/initiatives/wsi/index.shtml

For information on the Sector Council Program visit
http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/gateways/nav/top_nav/program/spi.shtml

For more information about Employment Insurance, visit
http://www1.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/ei/menu/eihome.shtml

- 30 -

This news release is available in alternative formats upon request.

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All times are reflected in Atlantic time
Date Modified: 2007-01-26